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Friday, October 23, 2026

Lions Car Show a winning event

Holidays mean Wreaths Across America time

UXBRIDGE — In 2018, when 60 cars showed up at the first Uxbridge Lions Club’s Classic Car Show, its members were somewhat disappoint-

ed. But each year, the number increased until Oct. 3, 170 vehicles rolled into Valley Chapel parking lot in all their glory. The Uxbridge Lions raise funds to

support numerous local organizations, individuals, and Lions charities.

With 40 trophies awarded, proud owners went home with

a shiny reminder of the beautiful autumn day in Uxbridge. Top recognition, Best in Show, went to Phil and Jan Harper of Uxbridge for their 1957 Red Pontiac Chieftain. The People’s Choice Award, voted for by those present at the car show, was awarded to Joe Cutler of Douglas for his 1949 Triumph Blue Cadillac Club Coupe.

No project such as a car show can succeed in its goals without community support as from Diamond Sponsors Law Office of Glen Matheson, Ben’s Rubbish, and Nydam Oil along with fifteen other lesser sponsors. Mendon Street Kitchen provided food for car participants and spectators with dessert from Sweet Wise Ice Cream. Basket Blessings Ministry offered a deluxe camping basket for raffle. As expected, in addition to the Uxbridge Lions Club members, volunteers are what make things go. Some helpers were from the Southern Worcester County Bar Association, the Leos from Blackstone Valley Tech, and family and friends who helped set up, organize vehicles, and deal with many other details.

The next service Uxbridge Lions service project will be its semi-annual Shred Event on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the VFW Parking Lot on Route 16 Uxbridge. Get rid of those old files, documents, and contracts before year’s end. Donation for a computer size box is \$5. No electronics recycling currently.

The goals of the not-for-profit “Wreaths Across America” grow ever bigger. Annually, the organization raises more money and places more live balsam wreaths on veterans’ graves nationwide than previously.

This year, join the Deborah Wheelock Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in adding to the number of wreaths decorating headstones of veterans in both Prospect Hill and St. Mary Cemeteries. As part of the “America 250” celebration, it is a beautiful way to remember those veterans from Uxbridge who fought in the American Revolution; honor all fallen heroes; a beloved veteran, family member or dear friend.

Dec. 19 marks the date when community volunteers will place wreaths on more than three million veterans’ graves in local, national and military cemeteries as well as at Veterans’ Memorials and historic



Courtesy
Phil and Jan Harper’s 1957 red Pontiac Chieftain won Best in Show at the Uxbridge Lions Club’s Eighth Annual Classic Car Show.

Northbridge Fire Department,
NAC Food Pantry launch
Holiday Food Drive

NORTHBRIDGE — The Northbridge Fire Department and NAC Food Pantry are partnering for the Northbridge Holiday Food Drive to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meal baskets to local families in need.

Community members, local businesses, and organizations are invited to support this effort through food, gift, and monetary donations.

To ensure every family receives a consistent meal basket, please donate items from this approved list:

- Stuffing mix
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Turkey gravy
- Cranberry sauce
- Green beans
- Corn
- Sweet potatoes/yams
- French fried onions
- Cream of mushroom or cream of celery soup
- Cornbread/biscuit mix
- Pre-mixed pumpkin pie mix
- Shelf-stable pie crust
- Instant apple cider mix
- Chicken broth
- Turkeys and hams

All food donations must be received by Nov. 8.

New, unwrapped toys and small gifts are welcome to help make Christmas brighter for children in local families. Financial contributions help support the holiday meal program and its mission to assist local families.

Venmo: @NFDA01588

Givebutter: Donate online

Food and gift donations can be dropped off at:

Northbridge Fire Department
1681 Providence Rd.
Northbridge, MA 01534

Thanksgiving and Christmas meal baskets will be distributed at the NAC Food Pantry, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville. Distribution details will be shared with participating families.

Every donation makes a difference. Thank you for helping the Northbridge Fire Department and NAC Food Pantry bring holiday cheer to our neighbors in need!

For more information, contact Erin McKeown atemckeown@northbridgemass.org or 508-234-8448.

Sheriff’s Office delivers fresh produce
to Blackstone Valley communities



Courtesy
Eric Eisner, Director of Communications for the Worcester Sheriff’s Office, delivers Fresh Organic Produce to Blackstone’s Devine Mercy Food Pantry.

REGION — Thousands of pounds of fresh, organic produce grown at the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office have been distributed to food pantries, senior centers, community refrigerators, and other charitable organizations throughout Worcester County this growing season.

Amongst dozens of other stops throughout the Blackstone Valley and all of Worcester County, the WCSO Community Outreach teams visited Blackstone’s Devine Mercy Food Pantry, Uxbridge Senior Center, Douglas’ St. Denis Food Pantry, and the Millbury Senior Center.

“Every delivery represents fresh produce going directly to an organization serving people in Worcester County,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “At the same time, participating inmates

experience the dignity of a full day’s work and the satisfaction of knowing their efforts are helping the same communities many of them call home. The rehabilitative value of this program is tremendous.”

Located at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction in West Boylston, the Organic Farm spans more than 18 acres and produces approximately 40,000 pounds of fresh produce annually.

Favorable growing conditions during the spring and summer have resulted in bountiful harvests of zucchini, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, summer squash, cucumbers, and most recently, pumpkins and fall squash varieties.

Following each harvest, the produce is sorted and prepared for delivery to food pantries, senior centers, veterans’ organiza-



Eric Eisner, Director of Communications for the Worcester Sheriff’s Office, delivers Fresh Organic Produce to the Uxbridge Senior Center.

tions, women’s shelters, community refrigerators, and other local nonprofits. A portion of the harvest is also incorporated into meals served to inmates at the facility.

Beyond providing fresh, locally grown food to those in need, the program serves an important rehabilitative purpose. Participating inmates are classified as low-risk and nonviolent and typically work between 10 and 25 hours per week, depending on the season and workload. Through their involvement, participants gain valuable work experience while developing responsibility, discipline, and teamwork.

Since Sheriff Evangelidis took office in 2011, the Organic Farm has undergone several expansions,

growing into the largest organic farm operating at a correctional facility in Massachusetts.

The farm is one of several initiatives through which the Sheriff’s Office works to address food insecurity and support local families. Earlier this year, several organizations receiving fresh produce also benefited from a separate infant formula distribution initiative made possible through a partnership between the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff’s Association and the Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation.

For updates on the Organic Farm Program and its community deliveries, follow the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office on social media.

Jingle Jaunt 5K returns to Sutton Dec. 12

SUTTON — Runners are invited to get into the holiday spirit when the Jingle Jaunt 5K takes place Saturday, Dec. 12, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in Sutton Center.

The annual holiday-themed race will be held at the Town Common, near the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Rd. Participants are encouraged to wear bells and bring some festive cheer to the 5K event.

Registration is \$25 per person, and organizers emphasize that all participants must register in advance. There will be no race-day registration, and runners are encouraged to sign up early because participation may be limited this year.

Race-day packet pickup will take place from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., ahead of the 10:30 a.m. start.

Participants who register by Nov. 28, or before registration closes if that occurs earlier, will be eligible for race T-shirts.

Awards will be presented to the top three male and female finishers in each of the following age divisions: under 15, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70 and older.

Refreshments will also be available during the event. For safety and course management, strollers, roller blades, bicycles, walkers, wheelchairs and pets will not be permitted on the course.

Organizers are also seeking volunteers to assist with the event. Group rates and a virtual race option may be available by contacting the organizers directly by email.

Registration forms and additional information are available by calling 508-865-0198 or emailing howie189@verizon.net or fcfs@suttonfirst-church.net. Information about the Jingle Jaunt can also be found on Facebook.

Participants registering by mail may send their completed forms and checks to Howard Bottomly, 189 Putnam Hill Rd., Sutton, MA 01590.

With its holiday atmosphere, age-group awards and community setting, the Jingle Jaunt offers runners an opportunity to celebrate the season while taking part in a local athletic tradition.

Organizers encourage participants to register early, arrive in time for packet pickup and remember to wear their bells.

Whitin Community Center announces exclusive Black Friday Scratch-Off event with unbeatable membership deals

WHITINSVILLE — Get ready to kick off your Black Friday shopping with an exciting and unique twist at the Whitin Community Center (WCC)! On Friday, Nov. 27, exclusively in person from 8:00AM to 10:00AM, we're offering a limited-time opportunity for both new and existing members to snag huge discounts on memberships through our Black Friday Scratch-Off Event.

Attendees will receive a scratch card that reveals their discount on membership fees, ranging from 30, 40, or 50 to an incredible 75 percent off! Plus, to make this event even more thrilling, one lucky winner will walk away with a free membership. Everyone is guaranteed at least 30% OFF!

"This event is unlike the other membership promotions we offer throughout the year," says Heather Elster, Executive Director at

Whitin Community Center. "Not only does everyone walk away a winner with substantial savings, but the excitement of revealing your scratch-card discount adds a fun and interactive element to our Black Friday event."

The in-person-only event is open to all new and current members of the WCC. Supplies are limited, we have just 300 scratch tickets available, so attendees are encouraged to arrive early to secure their scratch cards and take advantage of the unbeatable discounts.

Mark your calendars and don't miss this chance to unlock incredible savings at the Whitin Community Center's Black Friday event. Whether you're a fitness enthusiast or someone just looking for a great deal, this is an opportunity you won't want to pass up!

For more information, visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com or contact a Member Services Representative at 508-234-8184.

The Whitin Community Center is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals and families and building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. We offer social, recreational, educational, and outreach programs that bring community members of all ages and backgrounds together. The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley's most complete family and recreation center with two swimming pools, a gym, fitness center, early learning programs, summer camps and a seven and a half acre park. For more information call 508-234-8184 or visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com.

St. Peter's Parish to host holiday fair, pasta dinner and concert in November

NORTHBRIDGE — St. Peter's Parish will welcome the community for two special events in November, beginning with its Annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, Nov. 7, followed by a Pasta & Meatball Dinner and Music Concert on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Both events will take place in the parish hall at 39 Church Ave. in Northbridge and offer opportunities for residents to gather with friends and neighbors while supporting the parish.

The Annual Holiday Fair will be held Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring a variety of shopping opportunities, homemade treats, raffles and food.

Visitors can browse several popular tables, including the White Elephant Table, Baked Goods Table, Holiday Table and Craft Table. The craft selection will feature handmade items and quilts, offering shoppers an opportunity to find unique gifts ahead of the holiday season.

The fair will also feature numerous raffles, including a scratch ticket raffle, quilt raffle and gift basket raffle. A variety of additional raffle items will give attendees plenty of opportunities to take home prizes.

Food will be available throughout the day, allowing visitors to enjoy a meal or snack while spending time with family, friends and fellow parishioners.

The parish invites residents of Northbridge and surrounding communities to attend the fair, browse the tables and enjoy a day of fellowship while supporting the church.

One week later, St. Peter's will host its Pasta & Meatball Dinner and Music Concert on Saturday, Nov. 14, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

The evening will combine a pasta and meatball dinner with musical entertainment, with proceeds supporting the care and maintenance of the parish organ.

Tickets are \$20 per person and include both dinner and the concert. All tickets must be purchased in advance,

with a reservation deadline of Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Organizers encourage parishioners and community members to attend the evening of food and music while contributing to the preservation and upkeep of an important part of the church's musical tradition.

Both events are open to the community and provide opportunities to support St. Peter's Parish during the upcoming holiday season.

For more information about the Annual Holiday Fair or to purchase tickets for the Pasta & Meatball Dinner and Music Concert, contact the St. Peter's Parish Office at 508-234-2156 or email parishoffice@stpeter-rockdale.org.

Source: St. Peter's Parish event announcements and parish office contact information supplied for publication.

People First Food Pantry collecting winter coats

UXBRIDGE — The People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge is collecting brand new winter coats for Uxbridge children in need. These winter coats will be distributed to all of the children being served by the food pantry.

Jackets most in need are both boys and girls size 16-18 and larger. Brand new winter hats, mittens and scarves are also being collected. Donations can be dropped off at the food pantry on Tuesday nights 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. or dropped off in the donation boxes at the Uxbridge Police Station and at Hannaford Supermarket. Monetary donations can also be made for this program by visiting peoplefirstuxbridge.org.

Thank you for keeping our kids warm this winter!



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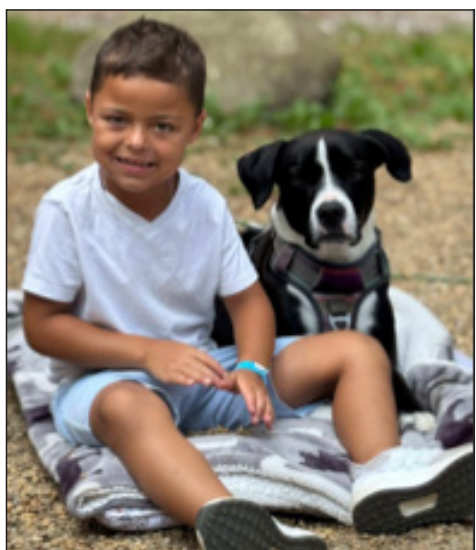
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Friday's Child





Joshua
Age 14
Registration #8744

Joshua, who likes to be called Josh, is a friendly, active, outgoing, and talkative young boy with a great sense of humor. He loves to tell stories, make others laugh, and connect with the people around him. Josh is also very helpful and enjoys being given jobs or responsibilities because he likes knowing that he can contribute and be helpful to others. He is thoughtful toward others and even makes a point of waving goodbye to each of his teachers when he leaves school each day. Josh enjoys encouragement and does well when he is given opportunities to participate and be involved. He forms bonds quickly and enjoys spending time with others. Josh is an active kid who loves playing video games, jumping on his trampoline, and swimming. He also enjoys playing sports, especially soccer and basketball. Josh has participated in a soccer league and is currently signed up to play on a basketball team. Josh has a fun-loving personality and enjoys keeping those around him smiling and laughing. He has plans for his future and dreams of becoming a police officer someday.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21191377413>

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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A harvest that nourishes more than the community

There is something particularly meaningful about a program that takes an ordinary necessity, such as growing food, and turns it into an opportunity to improve lives on both sides of a correctional facility’s walls.

That is precisely what the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office has accomplished through its Organic Farm Program, an initiative that deserves recognition not only for the thousands of pounds of fresh produce it distributes each year, but also for the broader lessons it offers about community responsibility, rehabilitation and the value of meaningful work.

Located at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction in West Boylston, the farm encompasses more than 18 acres and produces approximately 40,000 pounds of fresh vegetables annually. Its harvests include tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, summer squash and seasonal fall crops.

Those vegetables are not simply statistics in an annual report. They become nutritious meals for residents who might otherwise struggle to afford fresh produce.

This growing season, deliveries have reached organizations throughout Worcester County, including the Uxbridge Senior Center, St. Denis Food Pantry in Douglas, the Millbury Senior Center and Divine Mercy Food Pantry in Blackstone.

For the people who depend on these organizations, access to fresh vegetables can make a meaningful difference.

Food insecurity is not always visible in communities like ours. It does not necessarily announce itself through empty cupboards or dramatic circumstances. Sometimes it is a senior citizen carefully balancing grocery expenses against prescription costs. Sometimes it is a working family discovering that, even with steady employment, the weekly food budget no longer stretches as far as it once did.

Fresh produce can be especially difficult to prioritize when less expensive, shelf-stable alternatives are available.

That is why partnerships between public institutions and community organizations matter. Food pantries and senior centers understand the needs of the people they serve. By providing locally grown produce, the Sheriff’s Office helps those organizations stretch their resources while offering healthier food choices.

Yet the program’s significance extends beyond the vegetables themselves.

The farm provides work opportunities for participating inmates classified as low-risk and nonviolent. Depending on the season, they typically work between

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Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Blackstone Valley and beyond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Join me in voting no on Article #6

To The Editor:

At this year’s Fall Town Meeting, there is a very important warrant article. As it stands now, it is Article #6. It will amend this bylaw that has been in place since 2014, and has served the town well in my opinion. It is a bylaw that prohibits questionable ‘Comm-97’ soil to be used in town. I will be voting no, not to change the bylaw.

Just a short history on why the town has this bylaw in place. There was a hue and cry of concern’s after the town allowed Comm-97 fill on the Church Street Extension Land Fill in the time zone prior to 2014, from the abutters, and the general citizenry of the Town.

Comm-97 soils are ‘Moderately Contaminated Soils’ that Mass DEP says may be reused at Massachusetts landfills as daily cover, intermediate cover, or pre-capping contour material without Mass DEP approval. However, the Towns of Dartmouth, Middleborough, prohibits importing, transporting through town, and using Comm-97 soils locally because it considers the transport and use to be a public nuisance that may be ‘harmful or dangerous to people and property’.

As the state said years ago, Lead, Asbestos, etc., etc., and the ceiling panels of the new Harbor Tunnel was safe? Will they unequivocally put it in writing No PFAS, and other potential contamination may never even come from Comm-97 Fill? When I asked a ‘Consultant’ if they would put it in writing Comm-97 Soil would always be ‘Unequivocally Safe,’ they advised me no one would ever do that?

‘Boston University School of Public Health,’ from ‘Wendy, Heiger-Betnay, PhD’, letter to ‘Dartmouth Board Of Health, March 3, 2014.’ ‘‘Her letter is very comprehensive’’ on why Towns ‘should not use’ Comm-97 Soils & Fills.’

Her report can be found on the Internet, and Page’s #4-#7, are very enlightening, IMO. Plus there are other News Articles on the Internet about her and the report to Dartmouth, and Middleborough, plus Uxbridge recently updated their Soil

By-Law. View on the Internet Uxbridge issues with Comm-97 Soils, and Fill, around 2015 Time Frame. In my opinion, a ‘Tumultuous Time In Uxbridge.’

In my opinion, conjecturally, Comm-97 Soil is a Big Business for \$\$, Attorneys, Property Owners, and Soil Brokers, while the Town may receive a ‘financial bone?’ If that? In my opinion.

It seems like a ‘life time ago’ when I worked part-time for an old school ‘Town Manager’ in New Hampshire, he was appointed when Truman was President.

‘He had the ability to lead his town down the barrel of a cannon without ‘seeking resistance from a single one, in my opinion.

I believe he would have presented both options to the townspeople, plus have comprehensive ‘Valid Estimates’, and ‘overwhelmingly recommending’ to stay with the ‘safe soil.’ An old saying — a clear conscience is a soft pillow!’ Plus, through his excellent and management ability, find a way to pay for the ‘safe soil’ option. In my opinion, he would never have to say to a Parent, of a conjectural affected Child, from a conjectural unknown future potential contaminants, we were wrong about that Soil but the ‘State said it was Safe?’ Can you say PFAS? Asbestos? Lead? Harbor tunnel ceiling panels? Unknown ‘Brownfields,’ etc., etc.? Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future, in my opinion.

In closing, sometimes, we have to make decisions not because they are Easy, but because they are Hard!’ As we move forward hopefully a torch has been lit for a new generation of Northbridge residents to be involved in town issues? Conjecturally, we may be known as ‘solar town,’ may we conjecturally wish to be known as an ‘Erin Brockovich Comm-97 Soil Town?’ Hopefully not!

You, as a registered voter, will decide at the Fall Town Meeting because you are the great deciders and levelers, in my opinion.

Respectfully submitted,

BARRY R. GALLANT
WHITINSVILLE

Affordability in sheep’s clothing

To the Editor:

Did you know that Democrats are all about affordability?

This from the people who brought you the ‘Big Unaffordability’ Biden years. They were all about ‘affordability’ during the Biden Catastrophe. We had 9 percent inflation, a 20 percent inflation overall. They told us don’t worry, be happy.

If you remember the 18 percent inflation of Jimmie Carter, it took years for mortgage rates to slowly climb down. Even the Great Reagan could not make them drop fast. It took time. That is the reality. It takes time to climb down from Biden’s policies and sky-rocketing inflation.

Let’s remember that it took Trump a New York minute to close the border. Biden said he needed an Act of Congress.

So, why would you think the Democrat ‘talk’ about affordability is really about Affordability? Don’t buy what they are selling.

It’s not about affordability or the price of groceries. It’s a lie. It is to get elected, get power, and then given you what they really want. Raise taxes. Give money to the Somali fraudsters. Open the borders to all and any, with no screening whatsoever. Protect illegal criminals, as in our state: case dismissed, dismissed, dismissed, until they murder someone with a machete. Notice, no proposed law to outlaw machetes.

Flood the market with 10 million more illegal immigrants – which will do what? . Raise the cost of low and moderate income housing. Flood the grocery stores with millions more consumers. What does that do? Raises the costs of everything. Sky rocket prices. If you think 9 per cent inflation under Biden was bad, get ready for 18 per cent inflation under the Mamdani’s, the Bernie Sanders, the Al Sayids, and all the other ‘Democrats’ running for Congress.

They are ‘Tax the Rich’ Democrats in Affordability Sheep’s clothing.

Will you let them fool you into voting for the ‘kinder, softer, nicer’ people instead of the realists? Reality can be harsh. Your hard cold budget is real. You have to find your best buys, cut corners, grow a garden, and cut the cable.

The government doesn’t bother with the best price or the best deal because they are not spending their own money. They spend your money. Like the great deal on the Springfield court house at an inflated price with a life time rental payment to the husband of our U.S. congresswoman Ayanna ‘Baldy’ Pressley.

They spend your money to fund their own salaries. Did you know Maura convinced a judge on the Supreme Judicial Court to resign his seat so she could appoint her former lover to the SJC? She promised him a salary of \$500,000 to leave the Supreme Judicial Court to become UMass general counsel.

No judge ever resigns from their lifetime position on the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. But he did, leaving behind his SJC salary of a mere \$212,000.

Why would you think that the one party state of Massachusetts and all the Democrats in office here, where all the prices of everything are higher than in blue states, will bring you lower prices? They never have and never will.

Please do not vote for the wealthy state Treasurer Deb Goldberg. At age 72, it is time for us to retire her. She is a real live Liberal oligarch. Heir to the Stop and Shop supermarket fortune, with homes in Brookline, Mashpee, and Palm Beach. She rarely is in Boston, spends four months each year in Palm Beach, and attends meetings on Zoom! And for this, we pay her \$260,000 a year? She wasted \$1 million of your tax dollars to oust Shannon O’Brien from the Pot Commission, and O’Brien is suing. It will likely cost us tax payers at least \$3 million, but Goldberg’s not worried. Not her money.

Even Democrats should be mad!

If you believe the Democrat promises to bring you affordability, then I sadly conclude that someone could easily sell you a pack of Climate Crisis Purple Magic Pony Get Rich Quick tarot cards for a low cost of \$5,000.

Elections provide us with an opportunity for term limits. Use the opportunity!

BEV GUDANOWSKI
UXBRIDGE

When did calling someone become rude?

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

I committed a minor social offense the other day. I called somebody on the telephone. Without warning. No advance text message. No appointment. No

carefully worded inquiry asking whether it might be convenient to speak for a few minutes. I simply looked up the number, pressed the little green button and waited.

You would have thought I’d shown up at the fellow’s house at three in the morning carrying a trumpet.

He answered after several rings, sounding slightly alarmed.

‘Everything OK?’

‘Sure,’ I said. ‘Why?’

‘Well, you called.’

Apparently, that’s enough to suggest an emergency these days.

I remember when calling somebody was considered a perfectly ordinary way to communicate. In fact, for a considerable portion of my life, it was the only practical way to communicate with someone who wasn’t standing directly in front of you. You picked up the telephone, dialed a number and hoped the person you wanted was home. Sometimes, somebody else answered. Sometimes, you had to make polite conversation with a parent, spouse or sibling before being handed over to the intended recipient. And sometimes, nobody answered at all. In those cases, you simply tried again later. Nobody assumed the unanswered call represented a personal rejection or the collapse of a friendship.

Today, the rules appear to have changed. A telephone call without a preliminary text is apparently an intrusion. A voicemail is an unexpected burden. And leaving a message that says ‘Call me when you get a chance’ can produce enough anxiety to warrant a family conference.

My wife understands these new customs considerably better than I do. She recently watched me leave a voicemail for someone and shook her head.

‘Why didn’t you text him?’

‘Because I wanted to talk to him.’

‘You could have texted him to see if he was available.’

‘Wouldn’t calling him accomplish the same thing?’

She gave me the look she reserves for moments when explaining modern civilization to her husband seems like an unreasonable use of her remaining years.

I don’t object to texting. It’s a wonderful invention for certain purposes. If I need to tell my wife I’m stopping for milk, a text is ideal. If I want to know whether somebody has arrived safely, a text works beautifully.

And if someone sends me a photograph of a dog wearing sunglasses, I can respond with the appropriate expression of amusement without interrupting either of our afternoons.

But there are conversations that don’t fit neatly into little rectangular bubbles on a screen. A story, for example.

A proper story requires timing. It requires pauses, interruptions and the occasional ‘You’re not going to believe what happened next.’ It requires the ability to hear someone laughing before you’ve even reached the funny part. Try accomplishing that through a series of text messages.

By the time you’ve finished typing the setup, the other person has responded with a thumbs-up symbol, which could mean anything from enthusiastic agreement to

Turn To LANTERNS page A10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Betrayal!

To the Editor:

I despise Donald Trump. He is the chicken-skinned, diaper-wearing embodiment of everything loathsome and detestable in a human being. In fact, granting him status as ‘human’ is a grave insult to even the worst of humanity. Unfortunately, Trump’s debilities are not self-contained, and serve as contagions to attract and infect similarly disordered individuals. After years of detailing his most deplorable and destructive proclivities and deficiencies, I thought there was little left to his self-debasement. I was wrong.

Intelligence experts have been writing for years about Trump’s ties to Russia. There is a trail of evidence longer than the river Nile — or De-nial, in Trump’s case. As evidenced by this latest villainy, there can be no doubt that Trump is a Russian stooge intent on making America a vassal state of Russia.

Fools — the other ‘F’ word

To the Editor:

Thanks to the Oct. 16 edition’s superiorly long-winded diatribe, the one that somehow managed to disgrace all the remaining leftists on the planet Earth, most of us were reminded of that other ‘F’ word that was oh, so masterfully in evidence: Fool!

More specifically, leftist, Biden-supporting fools who continue to goose step their way into their most greatly imagined fears. Such as their totally ridiculous fears of their own fear-mongering against those of us who are not fear-mongering, merely stating facts that are in evidence.

Briefly scanning through that nonsense was like slogging through a bad remake of a poorly colorized version of a Frankenstein horror movie. In which some blue-vote mongering dolt superglues his own hand to a Cabbage Patch Kid from outer space.

Does the cast of characters and the plot make any sense? Of course not. That’s the whole point to those leftist word-salad diatribes. We’re all supposed to vote blue. That’s it... just vote blue.

Disregard all of the evidence that proved beyond any doubt how ridiculously bad of an idea voting blue turned out to be for those fools and those of us who live among them. We must instead reacquaint ourselves with their fears, treating their fears as if they are our own fears. Which they aren’t. It’s all about them, as per usual. No great surprise to any of it.

Run for your lives, readers. The Democrats are no longer in power. And like the anti-patriotic geniuses that they have always aspired to be, the leftists are setting fire to their own Nazi-like airships of interminably “Woke” doctrine! Oh, the

Russia invaded Ukraine under false pretext — they were a Nazi regime, they ethnically and historically belonged as part of Russia, they were threatening to join NATO — which, by the way, is a mutual defense organization, not an aggressive, offensive one. Supplemental to his 50 years of demonstrated affinity for Russia, Trump has made obvious his disdain for Ukraine and Zelensky. He embarrassed Zelensky in their White House meeting last year, telling him that “he had no cards to play”. He refused to provide long range weapons to bring the war home to Russians. He introduced a peace plan that was scripted by Russia, and amounted to Ukraine’s submission. He recently called for Ukraine to stop attacking Russian oil infrastructure, characterizing it as responsible for the current high diesel prices, while experts agree that his unnecessary and illegal war with Iran is responsible for the elevated prices. But Trump has perfected ‘the buck stops elsewhere’ defense

humanity.

In the end, the letter, and other rants like it, all toil and boil down to this. We are all expected to be gripped by their real and imagined fears of what amounts to the ‘C’ word for the left. Consequences.

Heaven forbid that anyone on the left might just somehow manage to suffer the consequences of their words or actions. Wouldn’t that be truly awful? Obviously not, for that’s how life often tends to work.

One of the more notable statements of facts was recently recorded and reported by the BBC from the Acropolis. Done so with far too many “woke” induced breaks in the BBC’s overproduction of the verbatim dialogue. However, despite the attempts to water it all down, it’s just the sort of thing that will likely induce even greater fear responses within our State’s suitably left, anti-American, foolishly “Woke” populations.

“We believe that Europe can awaken from its long slumber and rekindle the fire that was here millennia ago. The course we take will determine whether the West maintains its place at the head of the world, or resigns itself to a future of atrophy, and servitude, and decline. The next decade will write the story of the next century. The word ‘nationalism’ became a dirty word. So we tore down our monuments. We condemned our own history, and in too many places, we taught our children to be ashamed of the countries they would inherit. In the process, we opened our borders and outsourced our industry and allowed our militaries to wither and to decay.” — Secretary of State Marco Rubio

STEPHEN GAMBONE
NORTHBRIDGE

when confronted, and will never admit he was wrong or made a mistake.

When Zelensky refused Trump’s demands, Trump sent son-in-law Jared Kushner and Epstein-island regular Steve Witkoff to Russia, to make business deals with Vladimir Putin. Among these is a deal to buy Russian diesel oil, even though we have Congressionally-authorized sanctions on Russian oil exports. Of course, codified law doesn’t apply to King Trump and his minions. So, we are going to purchase Russian diesel that we don’t need - we are already an exporter of diesel — and the money will help Russia continue to finance its illegal war with Ukraine. The amount we will purchase is negligible relative to what Iran has disrupted, and won’t affect prices, which are based on the global market, not individual countries. Trump could buy diesel from Canada, at cheaper prices, if we really needed any. Then there is the little issue of Russia providing military intelligence and drones to Iran, to help in its fight with America. So, we are buying Russian oil in defiance of existing law, while Russia is aiding and abetting our enemy Iran, all to help Russia destroy democratic Ukraine, while the Trump/Witkoff families make lucrative Russian business deals for rare earth minerals, and offshore drilling. This is AmeriKa, 2026.

Enter the other traitor, Elon Musk. After a brief falling out with Trump over the DOGE disaster, Musk is back in good graces, and now controls 60 percent of all U.S. satellites. His companies are being awarded billions worth of military contracts. To help Trump and Putin, Musk suddenly cut off access to Starshield, which provided satellite communications to the Ukrainian military. Hours after intelligence was severed, 39 Russian missiles and hundreds of drones slammed into Ukrainian utility sites, killing civilians and cutting off electricity for hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian civilians. Ukraine had no early warning. This was obviously an attack coordinated between Musk, Trump and Putin. Musk now claims that Trump ordered the communications shutdown.

Ukraine, in response, took out several Russian data centers, and lo and behold, thousands of right-wing bots flooding our on-line media...disappeared!! Just as in 2016, Russia has been inundating America with right-wing hate in advance of our elections. All to help Trump and Republicans maintain their grip on our government, and help support dictators

around the world.

Trump is Putin’s lap dog. If he really wanted to end the war, during one of his long private phone conversations with bestie Putin, he could simply tell him to withdraw his troops from Ukraine - or the U.S. would commit more resources to aid Ukraine. (That is, if there is anything left over from the Iran conflict.) Instead, he tells Zelensky to be careful with his bombs, or to concede territory to Russia. Why? The rest of NATO and Europe are all helping defend democratic Ukraine, while Trump is making business deals with Russia for his personal gain. What other America president has ever claimed to be ‘best friends’ with the world’s dictators — Putin, Kim Jong Un, Xi Jinping, Orban, while alienating our allies? All while the dictators, in return, play the ‘great dealmaker’ like a puppet.

Tidbits:

-Texas and Florida have banned 12,000 books so far this year! Fascists, anybody?

- Trump pardoned Alice Marie Johnson, one of the biggest drug dealers in the U.S. She had ties to Mexican and Honduran drug cartels. She was serving a life sentence, without possibility of parole, when Trump pardoned her after serving four months. Trump appointed her his new ‘pardon czar, after firing the woman who refused to go along with many of his other pardons, which were being bought for a \$1 million donation. Her first act was to pardon Larry Hoover, another big time American drug trafficker. You can’t make this stuff up.

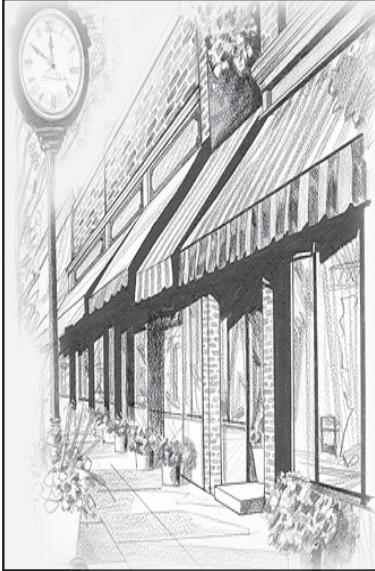
- A report from Atlantic Coating Inspection found the liner of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool installed this summer failed in at least 85 places due to flaws in the renovation. The report, commissioned by the contractor that installed the liner, said some of the liner peeling occurred because the pool was refilled too soon after the liner was applied. Trump accused radical left-wing democrats. Trump’s DA appointee Jeanine Pirro is still trying to prosecute the innocent ex-Olympian who picked up a floating piece of the liner. Weaponizing the DOJ, I presume?

- Moe Stoooge of Uxbridge says the state hasn’t installed a single EV charging station. My girlfriend and I took a ride around Worcester County and counted dozens and dozens. There’s even one outside a Papa Gino’s! Maybe the tooth fairy has a new side hustle?

Vote blue! Our future depends on it.

RICK BEVILACQUA
WHITINSVILLE

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Local Vibe Music Awards celebrates best of Milford’s music scene



MILFORD — Local music took center stage on Sunday, Oct. 4, as Raydio hosted the 2026 Local Vibe Music Awards at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Milford, bringing together musicians, bands, venues, music fans, and supporters for an afternoon dedicated to celebrating the area’s vibrant local music scene.

The free event, open to the public, featured 25 awards and 10 live musical performances, recognizing the incredible talent, dedication, and passion that keep local music alive and thriving throughout the region.

The afternoon featured performances by Captain and the Stubings, Driftwood, Roadhouse Strangers, Coffeehouse Squirrels, Fourth Year, The Bitter Hearts, Dan Rice, Box Groove, The Pub Kings, and Project Alice.

What makes the Local Vibe Music Awards special is that the winners are chosen by the fans. Rather than relying on a panel of judges or industry professionals, the awards give local music supporters the opportunity to vote for their favorite bands, musicians, performers, venues, and others who contribute to the local music community.

Among the special honors presented was the inaugural Local Vibe Headliner Award, awarded to Project Alice. Tony Soul was recognized as a Local Legend, while other special recognition awards celebrated the fans and personalities who make the local music scene so special.

But beyond the trophies and performances, the afternoon was about something bigger: community.

“Local music is about so much more than what happens on stage,” said Ray Auger, founder of Raydio and The Local Vibe. “It’s about the musicians who put their hearts into every performance, the venues that give them a place to play, and the fans who show up week after week to support them. This event was our way of bringing everyone together and saying thank you. Seeing so many people come together to celebrate local music is exactly why we do this.”

The event was made possible through the generosity of local businesses and sponsors who share Raydio’s commitment to supporting the community. Their contributions helped make the celebration free and accessible to local music fans.

Special thanks also go to Franklin TV, which recorded the event for an upcoming presentation on its YouTube channel, and Tim Rice Photo, whose photography captured the performances, award presentations, and memorable moments throughout the afternoon. Photos from the event are already available.

The Local Vibe Music Awards are an extension of Raydio’s ongoing commitment to showcasing local talent through Raydio’s Local Vibe, a resource connecting audiences with live music, local performers, and venues throughout the region.

“These musicians are our friends, our neighbors, and the people who help make our communities special,” added Auger. “They deserve to be recognized, celebrated, and supported. If this event inspires even a few more people to get out and see a local band, then we’ve accomplished something pretty special.”

Raydio looks forward to continuing its support of the local music community and building on the success of this year’s celebration.

About Raydio

Raydio is a locally owned and operated internet radio station serving Milford, Massachusetts, and surrounding communities. Featuring upbeat music, local personalities, community news, events, local sports updates, and specialty programming, Raydio is committed to keeping listeners connected to the people, places, and happenings that make the area special.

Valley Chapel presents “Jailhouse Rock!”

UXBRIDGE — What begins as an exciting week of hiking, swimming, and outdoor adventures takes an unexpected turn in Valley Chapel’s upcoming children’s musical, “Jailhouse Rock!”

The musical follows a group of children as they arrive at Camp Koinonia, eager to enjoy all the fun that a week at camp has to offer. But their plans quickly change when a torrential downpour leaves them “jailed up” inside the camp mess hall.

Although the rain may have put a damper on their outdoor activities, it opens the door to an important lesson. With the help of the Camp Director and Junior Counselors, the children learn about the experiences of Paul, Silas, and Peter, who each faced their own difficult experiences being “locked up.” Through their stories, the campers discover how prayer, praise, and faith can make a difference—even when circumstances seem discouraging. Most importantly, they are learning they can be set free of their sins through the saving work of Jesus on the cross.

Filled with music, humor, and an encouraging message, “Jailhouse Rock!” promises an entertaining afternoon for the whole family while reminding audiences of the power of faith in challenging times.

The community is invited to experience the musical on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 3 p.m. in the Valley Chapel Sanctuary. Admission is free!

Following the performance, audience members are welcome to join the cast and choir for desserts in the café and enjoy an opportunity to celebrate with the performers.

Come for the music, stay for the fellowship, and discover how even a rainy day at camp can become an opportunity to shake, rattle, roll—and praise!

Thanksgiving project needs your help

UXBRIDGE — The Uxbridge Senior Center is organizing our annual Thanksgiving lunch distribution to more than 275 seniors and homebound. We are looking for assistance from volunteers to make this project a success. The amount of organization and preparation is surmountable, but with many hands, the work is attainable and rewarding.

This project takes place on Monday, Nov. 23 at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Volunteers can help by donating monetary donations made payable to the Uxbridge Senior Center at 36 South Main St., Uxbridge. Others may help by volunteering their time to help package or deliver the meals. Your time would consist of a few hours between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., depending on the assignment. We appreciate your willingness to help.

In addition, the senior center is accepting names of Uxbridge residents that would like lunch, please call the center and indicate if you would like the meal delivered to your home or if would like to pick it up at the senior center.

If you can help in any way, please reach out to the Uxbridge Senior Center by Nov. 16, contact Gail Boutiette, Outreach Coordinator, at 508-278-8622. Thank you for your consideration and support.

PLUMMER PLACE

Home of the Northbridge Senior Center	Bring your tech questions — drop-in appointments — no need to sign up in advance	Events
The following events will take place at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. We are located at 20 Highland Street in Whitinsville. Telephone: (508) 234-2002. Northbridge residents have priority for all programming and events. Please call the main office to sign up for special events and programs, so we can plan accordingly.	Meditation with Kelly: Every Thursday morning at 9:30am	A Spooktacular Afternoon with the Muleskinners
	Book Club: 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:30am	Wednesday, October 28th 12:30pm-2:00pm
	Please call Kelly for more information.	Put on your favorite costume and join us for a fun-filled afternoon of Halloween entertainment! Enjoy live music by The Muleskinners, featuring toe-tapping bluegrass favorites that are sure to keep you dancing. Gather with friends for a festive celebration filled with music, laughter, and Halloween spirit. Costumes are encouraged, so come dressed in your Halloween best and get ready for a hauntingly good time! Menu: turkey/roast beef wraps, antipasto pasta salad, baby spinach salad, chips, and hot apple crisp with vanilla ice cream & caramel sauce for dessert. Tickets are \$10 each and cover the cost of the luncheon and the entertainment. Tickets are available in the Main Office. Limit of 2 tickets per person. Northbridge residents receive ticket priority. Tickets must be purchased in person, and everyone must have a ticket to attend.
Medical Drivers	Brew Crew: 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30am	
We are in need of medical drivers for out-of-town medical appointments. This is a very important service that we provide for seniors who cannot drive themselves to their medical appointments. If you are interested and can spare any time, it would be most appreciated. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. For more information, please call the main office.	Wednesday, November 4th: Robert Fitzgerald, Northbridge Town Assessor	
	Please call Amy for more information.	
	Dull Men’s Club: 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30am	
	October 27th: David Pickart, Northbridge Conservation Agent	
	Please call Amy for more information.	
	Women’s Collective: 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am	
	Please call Amy for more information.	
	Writing Your Way: 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 2:00pm	
	Please call Lori for more information.	
Regular Programs:		
NEW Tech Cafe!		
2nd Monday of the month		
1:30pm-3:00pm		
	Special Programs and	

A furry buddy helps WCS students practice their reading skills

WHITINSVILLE — For middle school students, reading aloud can sometimes feel intimidating. Add a four-legged friend to the classroom, and the experience can become a little less daunting. Reading therapy dogs offer students a relaxed, welcoming audience as they practice their reading skills. Unlike reading in front of classmates, reading to a dog can ease the pressure students may feel about making mistakes, mispronouncing words, or reading at a slower pace.

“Kodi, our reading therapy dog, had his first day in class earlier this month,” said Jen Miller, Middle School English Teacher at Whitinsville Christian School. “He did an amazing job, and so did the seventh graders. Literary magic happens every time he’s in the classroom.”

Kodi’s owners are Annaliese and Aaron Wheeler. Annaliese is a WCS alumnus and the former Director of Educational Support Services. Kodi has been training for more than two years and received his certification through Pet Partners.

“A reading therapy dog may not be able to offer help with a difficult vocabulary word, but the dog’s steady presence can provide something just as important: encouragement to keep turning the pages. Sometimes, a little extra motivation comes with a wagging tail. And he’s such a good listener!” said Ms. Miller.



S.C.E. Real Estate hosting coat drive for Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter

DOUGLAS — Last year, our community really came through for our coat drive, and we couldn’t be more grateful.

Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, we were able to collect coats for individuals and families in need. This year, we’re doing it again, and we’d love your help!

S.C.E. Real Estate is once again collecting new and gently used coats for adults and children to benefit the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter.

The shelter does incredible work right here in our community, providing a safe place to stay, essential resources, and support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. We’re grateful to have an organization like this in the Blackstone Valley and proud to support the work they do. As you’re pulling out your winter clothes or cleaning out your closets this fall, we hope you’ll consider donating a coat you no longer need. Something that may seem small to us can mean so much to someone facing the cold winter months without one.

Donations can be dropped off at S.C.E. Real Estate, 295 Main St. in Douglas, now through Nov. 5. We’ve made it easy with a collection bin right outside our front door.

To everyone who donated last year, thank you. Your kindness made this possible, and we’re hoping we can count on our wonderful community once again to help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

To learn more about the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter, visit www.bvemergencyshester.org.

Playful Foundations: Simple ways to support your little learner through play

MENDON — What if one hour could help you feel more confident supporting your child’s learning?

Parents and caregivers of children ages three to six are invited to Playful Foundations, a free hands-on workshop at Taft Public Library in Mendon on Thursday, Nov. 5 from 6-7 p.m.

Discover how simple, everyday play can build early literacy, math, fine motor skills, problem-solving, independence, confidence, and kindergarten readiness—without worksheets, expensive learning toys or hours of research, prep and planning.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore simple, hands-on activities designed with purposeful play in mind. Using materials you likely already have at home, you’ll discover the important skills developing beneath each activity and leave with practical ideas and take-home resources you can use right away.

Little learners are welcome to attend! Children can play and explore alongside their grown-up/s

GriefShare seminar in Sutton to offer support for those facing the holidays after a loss

SUTTON — For those grieving the death of a loved one, the holiday season can be an especially difficult time. A special GriefShare seminar, “Surviving the Holidays,” will be held Monday, Nov. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 65 Gilmore Dr. in Sutton to provide encouragement, practical advice and support for individuals navigating the season while coping with loss.

The two-hour program is designed to help participants prepare for the emotional challenges that often accompany Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holiday gatherings following the death of someone close to them.

Through video interviews with professional counselors, grief experts and individuals who have experienced the holidays after losing loved ones, the seminar will offer practical suggestions and reassurance to those struggling with grief.

Among the topics to be addressed are managing difficult emotions, deciding whether to maintain or change family traditions, navigating social gatherings and finding sources of comfort and strength during what can be an emotionally demanding time of year.

Those interested in attending are asked to register online at [**https://find.griefshare.org/events/304964**](https://find.griefshare.org/events/304964**).

The program offers an opportunity for individuals facing the holidays without a loved one to receive guidance, reassurance and encouragement as they prepare for the weeks ahead.

Even beetle-headed lap-ear’d knaves are welcome at Grafton Shakespeare Club

GRAFTON — An accountant, a chef and a teacher walk into the Brigham Hill Community Barn. What do they have in common? Each is carrying a copy of “King Lear” to the inaugural meeting of the Shakespeare Club of Grafton’s 38th Season. The club members read aloud, study and discuss the works of William Shakespeare and his time and meet the second and fourth Monday of each month between September and May from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Brigham Hill Community Barn on Wheeler Road in North Grafton.

At its Annual Meeting in May, the club members elected officers: President Mary Ann Johnson, Vice President Donna Coleman, Secretary Cathy Thornton, and Treasurer Gary Zelch. They also selected the plays for the 38th season which will be “King Lear,” “Henry IV Part I,” “As You Like It” and the one non-Shakespeare play of the year, “Arsenic and Old Lace.”

A member acts as Casting Director and assigns roles to members for each play for each meeting. A Shakespeare Club member is the “Director” who facilitates the study of the work. Mike Johnson will start off the season with the presentation of “King Lear.” Because the mem-

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RESERVE NOW

BVT Admissions to hold open house

UPTON — Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) will hold an Admissions Open House for prospective students and their families on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. No registration is needed.

The evening is an opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art facility located at 65 Pleasant St. in Upton and see for yourself how BVT is transforming education and the lives of its students. Meet staff members who will be on hand as a resource to answer questions about academics, student support services, student activities, and the admissions process.

The schedule of events will include mini-sessions featuring the Special Education program and the support available to students at BVT and during the application process. Also, learn more about the Spanish Immersion program and how to enroll.

If you are interested in learning more, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/admissionsopenhouse.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

Sutton Historical Society to host former “Deep Sea Detectives” co-host

SUTTON — The Sutton Historical Society will host Richie Kohler, an award-winning filmmaker, television host, author, and explorer known for bringing the hidden stories of historic shipwrecks to a global audience for “History is Literally and Figuratively a Work in Progress” on Monday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Rd., Sutton.

Kohler has spent a 50-year career searching for and shedding light on underwater mysteries. This free presentation will detail some of Kohler’s work as a deep sea detective on some of the most infamous and dangerous shipwrecks in the world. Kohler’s work has aired across major networks and studios including National Geographic, PBS/NOVA, Discovery Channel, CBS, Fox, Universal Studios, Paramount Pictures, and E-One.

A Fellow of The Explorers Club, Kohler is also the author of “Mystery of the Last Olympian,” chronicling a decade of exploration on HMHS Britannic. Most recently, Kohler hosted the series “Dark Waters with Richie Kohler,” continuing his mission to educate, inspire, and illuminate the fragile underwater world.

This free presentation is open to the general public of all ages. For our calendar of events or membership information, visit Sutton1704.org.

Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Historic District Commission presents Second Annual Heritage Day

WHITINSVILLE — Join the Downtown Crossroads Historic District Commission and the Whitin Community Center for a celebration of the Aldrich School and Whitin Park!

The Second Annual Heritage Day event will feature tours, a Scarecrow Contest, music, food trucks and activities for all ages. Guided tours of the historic Whitin Park grounds will also be held throughout the afternoon, to give visitors a deeper understanding of how the Park has evolved over the decades. The future of the Aldrich School on Hill Street will also be front and center, with tours highlighting renovation work carried out over the past year. Community Center staff will collect stories from members of the community who attended or worked at Aldrich School, as the Center builds a history of Whitinsville’s oldest school ahead of next year’s Grand Re-Opening.

Heritage Day is a free event, rain or shine, being held from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24. For more information on Heritage Day, stop by the Community Center and follow both the WCC and the Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Historic District Commission on Facebook for updates throughout the month. See you on the 24th!

Northbridge Historical Society meets Nov. 2

NORTHBRIDGE — The Northbridge Historical Society will meet Monday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Singh Theater, located at Open Sky/Alternatives, 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville. Richard Vanden Berg is our speaker on the Declaration of Independence.

Vanden Berg taught history at Whitinsville Christian School for decades, and has a weekly YouTube presentation on historical events posted every Wednesday morning.

The Declaration of Independence is our birth certificate, justifying severing ties with Great Britain, and inspiring global initiatives for self -determination and human rights.

It was written by a committee, and it has no enforceable legal standing.

In the Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln echoed the Declaration’s assertion that “all men are created equal” and “are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,” including “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Vanden Berg will share the rest of the story and explain why it matters.

The program, the second of our fifty-sixth season, will follow a short business meeting led by President John Walker, Jr., who has updates on the Christmas party plans.

The Northbridge Historical Society collects, organizes, preserves and shares Northbridge history. Our headquarters is the James Fletcher homestead at One Elm Place.

Our membership is open to everyone who is interested in our programs and purposes.



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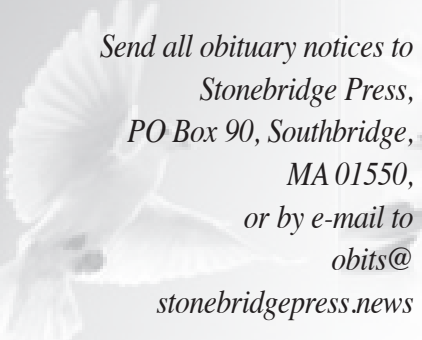
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LEGALS

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Docket No. WO26P3266GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Arron James Barry
Of: Uxbridge, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Anthony J Barry of Uxbridge, MA
Laura A Barry of Uxbridge, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Arron James Barry** in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Anthony J Barry of Uxbridge, MA**
Laura A Barry of Uxbridge, MA (or some suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. **You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **11/03/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding

may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date:October 02, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman
October 23, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 54 Carney Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bear Iona McColloch and Courtney R. McColloch to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company, and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated April 18, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70411, Page 210, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”) as mortgagee, as nominee for Cardinal Financial Company Limited Partnership to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated July 23, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72296, Page 247; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on November 9, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain lot or parcel of land being shown as Lot No. 1 on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Uxbridge, Massachusetts, Prepared for Harold F., Jr. and Jeanne M. Francis, Scale 1” = 40’ dated January 16, 1997 by Andrews Survey and Engineering, Inc ., 104 Mendon Street, Uxbridge,

Mass. 01569” and being recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 713 as Plan 64. This conveyance is made subject to and with the benefit of restrictions and easements of record so far as now in force and applicable. For title see deed recorded herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated April 9, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70411, Page 207.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
October 16, 2026
October 23, 2026
October 30, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P3265EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Harriett Ann Beaudoin
Date of Death: 10/28/2023
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will** has been filed by **Natasha J. Landry of Chalrton MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: .
Natasha J. Landry of Chalrton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/03/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 05, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 23, 2026

DA hosts discussion on understanding addiction and supporting recovery

WORCESTER — On Oct. 14, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. hosted the Prevention and Support Network’s annual event, bringing together community partners for a discussion on addiction, recovery, and the importance of coordinated support to help individuals build stable, healthy lives.

St. Gabriel’s Church to host annual Christmas Fair Dec. 5

UPTON — St. Gabriel’s Church, 151 Mendon St., Upton, will hold its annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Fair has a wide variety of fresh balsam wreaths, cemetery baskets and tabletop arrangements. Raffles on Theme Baskets, Gift Certificates and a lottery for a scratch cards valued at more than \$450 as well as an Amazon Gift Card raffle valued at \$200 will be available.

In addition, a gift boutique featuring new and ‘like new’ items, a Gems and Jewels and a Christmas Holiday decor section will have selections to interest everyone. The Bake Table offers an assortment of cookies, pastries and candy. Stop in and enjoy coffee, tea, cold drinks and pastries and stay for lunch of finger rolls and chips. We look forward to seeing you all during this festive holiday season!

The event featured Dr. Stephen Loyd, Chief Medical Officer at Cedar Recovery and the real-life physician portrayed by Michael Keaton in Hulu’s “Dopesick,” and Troy Sandifer, founder and CEO of H.U.S.T.L.E. (How U Survive This Life Everyday) Recovery, a Tennessee-based organization that connects individuals with addiction treatment and recovery support services.

Dr. Loyd shared his personal experience with addiction and recovery, while Sandifer discussed H.U.S.T.L.E. Recovery’s respite housing model and its role in supporting individuals as they work toward long-term stability.

Dr. Loyd discussed the complex factors that can contribute to addiction, including genetics, trauma, and underlying mental health challenges. Drawing on his professional

experience and personal journey through recovery, he emphasized the importance of understanding addiction and addressing the underlying factors that can contribute to substance use. He also spoke about the importance of breaking generational cycles of addiction and creating opportunities for individuals and families to move forward.

Sandifer also shared his personal journey through addiction and the criminal justice system and how those experiences inspired him to dedicate his work to helping others find

recovery. Through H.U.S.T.L.E. Recovery, he works to connect individuals with recovery services and employment opportunities that can help them build stability and independence.

The discussion highlighted the importance of a comprehensive, collaborative approach to addiction that balances accountability with access to treatment and support. Addressing the

opioid crisis requires more than a criminal justice response; it also calls for coordi-



nation among law enforcement, treatment providers, community organizations, and other partners to help individuals access the resources and opportunities they need to sustain recovery.

“These leaders came up from Tennessee to offer our community successful programs that help save lives. Their work interrupts death,” said District Attorney Early. “They shared with us the importance of having people with real-life, lived experience help people overcome this

disease and improve public safety.” The event offered an opportunity for members of the Prevention and Support Network to learn from the speakers’ experiences and consider how their approaches could inform local

efforts in Worcester County. Their work reinforced that lasting recovery requires more than access to treatment alone. It also depends on coordinated support and

a commitment to helping individuals build stable lives in recovery.

Sandifer emphasized the critical step of securing stable housing and employment options

for individuals in early recovery, “Treatment is not recovery. Treatment is stabilization. Recovery begins after treatment.”

Early has long been committed to addressing substance use, trauma, and mental health in Worcester County. In 2015, he established the Central Massachusetts Opioid Taskforce, which later became the Prevention and Support Network, which continues to foster collaboration among professionals, law enforcement, and community organizations to address substance use and its impact on individuals, families, and communities throughout Worcester County.



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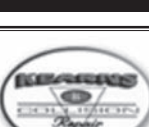


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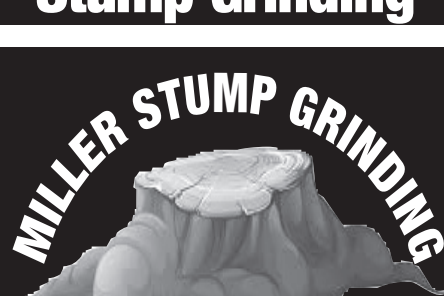


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EDITORIAL

continued from page A4

10 and 25 hours each week, gaining experience in responsibility, cooperation, discipline and the satisfaction of completing a productive day’s work.

Those experiences should not be underestimated.

A correctional system has an obligation to maintain public safety and hold individuals accountable for their actions. But accountability and rehabilitation are not competing goals. In fact, preparing people to return to their communities as more responsible, productive individuals is an important part of

protecting those communities over the long term.

Learning to show up, work alongside others, follow instructions and contribute to something worthwhile can help establish habits that remain valuable long after a sentence has been served.

There is also something powerful about knowing that the results of one’s labor are helping neighbors who may be experiencing difficult circumstances of their own.

Since Sheriff Lew Evangelidis took office in 2011, the farm has expanded into what the Sheriff’s Office identifies as the largest organic farm operating at a correctional facility in

Massachusetts. That growth demonstrates what sustained investment in a practical community program can accomplish.

The initiative also illustrates the importance of looking beyond traditional institutional boundaries when addressing local problems.

A sheriff’s office is not ordinarily the first organization that comes to mind when discussing hunger relief. Yet here is a public agency using available land, agricultural work and community partnerships to address a need that reaches into neighborhoods throughout the Blackstone Valley.

It is a reminder that effective public service

sometimes begins with recognizing an opportunity that falls outside an organization’s most familiar responsibilities.

As the growing season winds down and attention turns toward the colder months, the farm’s accomplishments offer a timely reason to appreciate the many people and organizations working to ensure that neighbors have enough to eat.

A successful harvest is usually measured by what comes out of the ground. This one deserves to be measured by something more: the families it helps feed, the community partnerships it strengthens and the opportunities it creates for people working toward a better future.

Why Is Reverse So Important Today?

BY RUTA CONVENT

For years, the words reverse mortgage carried an unfair stigma. Many people believed it was only for seniors facing financial hardship or on the verge of losing their homes. That perception couldn’t be further from the truth.

Today’s reverse mortgage has evolved into a valuable retirement planning tool designed to help older homeowners achieve greater financial security.

Americans are living longer than ever before, which means retirement savings often need to last 25 to 30 years or more. At the same time, inflation continues to drive up the cost of groceries, utilities, healthcare, insurance, and other everyday expenses. While Social Security provides an important source of income, for many retirees it simply isn’t enough to cover monthly living costs.

For many homeowners, their house represents their largest financial asset. A reverse mortgage allows qualified homeowners age 62 and older to convert a portion of their home’s equity into tax-free proceeds while continuing to live in and own their home. There are no required monthly mortgage payments as long as the borrower lives in the home, maintains it, and stays current on property taxes and homeowners insurance.

Rather than being a loan of last resort, today’s reverse mortgage is often used as part of a comprehensive retirement strategy. The funds can help supplement monthly income, cover healthcare expenses, make home improvements, create an emergency reserve, or reduce the need to withdraw money from retirement investments during market downturns.

Just as important, today’s reverse mortgage is one of the most highly regulated mortgage products available. Federally insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs) are governed by strict federal guidelines and consumer protections. Every borrower must complete independent counseling with a HUD-approved counselor before obtaining the loan, ensuring they fully understand both the benefits and responsibilities. These safeguards help homeowners make informed decisions that fit their individual financial goals.

As retirement continues to change, so must the way we think about financing it. A reverse mortgage is no longer a product to be feared or misunderstood. For many homeowners, it is simply another financial toolone that can provide additional income, greater flexibility, and peace of mind throughout retirement.

At Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, we specialize in helping homeowners explore how a reverse mortgage could fit into their overall retirement strategy. With over a century of financial strength and a commitment to service, we guide our clients every step of the way - ensuring they understand their options and make informed, confident decisions.

Your home could be the key to a more secure retirement. To learn how a reverse mortgage could work for you, contact Ruta Convent, your local Mutual of Omaha Retirement Mortgage Specialist, and schedule a free, no-obligation consultation. Ruta has over 40 years of finance and mortgage experience. She lives in Uxbridge with her husband John, and pup Coco.

LANTERNS

continued from page A4

“Please stop contacting me.”

I have also discovered that punctuation has become a delicate matter. Apparently, ending a text message with a period can sometimes make you sound angry. I learned this after responding to a perfectly innocent question with the words, “Sounds good.” A younger acquaintance later explained that the period made the message seem unnecessarily stern. I had no idea.

For more than six decades, I’d been under the impression that periods were simply how sentences ended. Now, evidently, they are tiny symbols of disapproval.

I’ve started wondering what other grammatical offenses I’ve been committing. Does a semicolon suggest hostility? Is a colon a threat? Should I apologize for using parentheses?

And don’t get me started on the three little dots that appear when somebody is typing a response. Those dots can keep a grown man

staring at his phone like he’s awaiting the results of an important medical examination. They appear. They disappear. They appear again. Then nothing.

What happened? Did the person change their mind? Did the phone malfunction? Were they composing a lengthy declaration and decide against sending it?

In the old days, if somebody stopped talking halfway through a sentence, you could at least ask whether they were all right.

Still, I recognize that communication changes with every generation.

My grandparents probably thought answering machines were peculiar. My parents had their own opinions about call waiting. And I distinctly remember a time when people complained about teenagers spending too many hours talking on the telephone. Now we complain because nobody wants to talk on the telephone. There’s a certain symmetry to that.

The other evening, I decided to call an old friend I hadn’t spoken with in several weeks. For a

moment, I considered sending a text first. Then I decided to take my chances.

He answered on the second ring. “What’s wrong?” he asked.

“Nothing. Thought I’d see how you were doing.”

There was a pause. Then he laughed.

“Well, that’s a pleasant surprise.”

We talked for nearly half an hour. Nothing especially important came up. We traded a few stories, complained mildly about the price of things and remembered an incident from years ago that somehow gets funnier every time we tell it. When we hung up, I realized how much I’d enjoyed hearing his voice.

A few minutes later, my phone buzzed. It was a text from him.

“Good talking to you.”

I wrote back, “You too.”

Then I looked at the message and made one small adjustment before sending it.

I removed the period. No sense starting an argument.

WREATHS

continued from page A1

sites across America.

Wreath-laying is a family affair, and a wonderful way to teach young people appreciation for the sacrifices made for their benefit by others.

The Deborah Wheelock Chapter,

DAR, has a goal of 100 wreaths to honor veterans buried in Uxbridge cemeteries. To sponsor a wreath for Uxbridge or elsewhere order at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/MA0190P. Your tax deductible donation of \$17 is twice-appreciated, because \$5 will be ‘rebated’ to the Chapter for each wreath bought. All accrued rebates will be

earmarked to support other local veterans’ needs. To volunteer to assist in laying wreaths, click on the link above to register.

The deadline for delivery in the New England region is Dec. 2. Help Deborah Wheelock Chapter, DAR, meet or exceed its goal to honor veterans during the holiday Season.

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Saint Joseph School Grade 3 students Rayna Parslow and Camden Bergman join Father Richard Polek and Father Anthony Kazarnowicz at the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica after presenting them with gifts in recognition of Priesthood Sunday.

Saint Joseph School honors priests

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School in Webster recently recognized Father Richard Polek and Father Anthony Kazarnowicz in observance of Priesthood Sunday, celebrated this year on Sept. 27.

Following the school’s weekly Friday Mass on September 25, Grade 3 students Rayna Parslow and Camden Bergman presented gifts to the priests on behalf of the entire school community. The presentation followed remarks by Principal Beth Boudreau, who thanked both priests for their service to Saint Joseph School and Saint Joseph Basilica.

Priesthood Sunday is an annual celebration honoring the vocation of the priesthood and recognizing the dedication and faithful service of Catholic priests. It also provides an opportunity to pray for priests, for an increase in vocations, and for those discerning a call to the priesthood.

Father Richard, pastor of Saint Joseph Basilica and headmaster of Saint Joseph School, and Father Tony are important members of the school community. Through their celebration of Mass and the sacraments, their prayers and spiritual guidance, and their presence at school events, they help students grow in faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Their support strengthens the school’s Catholic identity and reminds students that faith is at the heart of everything they do.

The students, families, faculty, and staff of Saint Joseph School expressed their gratitude to Father Richard and Father Tony for the many ways they serve the school and parish communities.

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Healing Heroes Foundation launches equine-assisted recovery program

WHITINSVILLE — Responding to the growing need for mental health resources for first responders across Massachusetts, the Healing Heroes Foundation announced the launch of its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program.

The skills-based program utilizes horses as a bridge to mindfulness and grounding to combat high stress and post-traumatic stress disorder that heavily impact firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement officers, military veterans, and other first responders. Healing Heroes Foundation is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit dedicated to fostering community, connection, and camaraderie across first responders, military members, veterans, and their families.

“This experiential, relationship-based program provides the space, community,

and support for first responders to ground themselves and engage with one of nature’s most empathetic creatures,” says Jaime Nicholas, Co-Director of Healing Heroes Foundation. “First responders across the country are facing significant mental health and wellness challenges, and we felt a responsibility to help address that need here in Massachusetts by introducing a unique program that fosters meaningful connection and mental well-being so first responders don’t have to navigate life’s challenges alone.”

Hosted in Whitinsville, the eight-week Equine-Assisted Recovery Program is made possible through partnerships between the Healing Heroes Foundation, Cornerstone Community Care, and Superior Stables. At the end of the program, participants will be

connected with financial health resources through a partnership between Healing Heroes Foundation and First Responders Credit Union.

The program is led by Christina Cronin, LICSW, President and Clinical Director of Cornerstone Community Care. Participants will engage in structured interactions with the horses through activities such as observing, grooming, leading, and other groundwork designed to support mindfulness, self-regulation, communication, and connection. Among the horses participating in the program is one cared for by a U.S. Army veteran and current psychiatric registered nurse, further reflecting the program’s connection to the communities it serves.

The Healing Heroes Foundation has filled two cohorts of participants for its

Equine-Assisted Recovery Program, showing a regional demand for this innovative resource. With a focus on solidifying the curriculum and measuring outcomes with its inaugural cohort, the organization’s long-term goal is to grow the program’s impact and geographical reach so this critical resource can be available to first responders across the state. It is currently in talks with additional Massachusetts stables.

Equine-assisted approaches have proven to meaningfully complement clinical therapy, exposing participants to a more active, relationship-based setting. Interactions with horses such as approaching, handling, leading, and caring can make abstract concepts like consent, trust, self-regulation, and communication more tangible.



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Webster Lake Waterfront - 24 Laurelwood Dr
Webster Lake Waterfront



ON DEPOSIT

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you into a kitchen, dining, and living area tailored for intimate social hosting. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000**

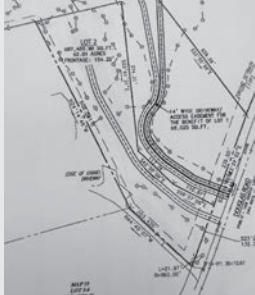
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ON DEPOSIT

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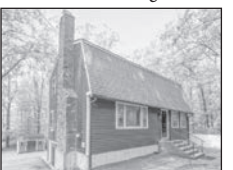
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A Trinity Tradition: Nature’s Classroom

BY ANGELA SYMOCK
PRINCIPAL

TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY

SOUTHBRIDGE — Were you one of the lucky students who attended Nature’s Classroom as a sixth grader? For the past 26 years, I’ve had the privilege of watching Trinity students head off on this special adventure and return with stories, stronger friendships, and memories that last long after the week is over.

A few years ago, I was lucky enough to experience Nature’s Classroom from a different perspective when I had the opportunity to chaperone alongside my daughter’s sixth-grade class. What a blessing! I was able to see firsthand the learning, laughter, teamwork, and joy that takes place throughout the week. It is so much

more than a field trip—it is an experience that challenges students, brings them together, and creates memories they will carry with them for years to come. Nature’s Classroom has become such a cherished Trinity tradition, and each year our sixth graders add their own chapter to that tradition.

To our parents who make sacrifices to ensure their children can have this experience: well done! Your support makes these opportunities possible, and the value of giving our students experiences like this is truly priceless.

Here’s to another generation of Trinity sixth graders learning, exploring, laughing, and making memories at Nature’s Classroom!



Courtesy

Bank of America volunteers, led by Michael Garand, president of Bank of America, Worcester, joined Bank of America’s 2026 Worcester Neighborhood Builder®, Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester on October 8, 2026, to help build a home for a local family. The volunteer effort reflects Bank of America’s ongoing commitment to strengthening communities and expanding access to safe, affordable housing across Central Massachusetts through the Bank of America Neighborhood Builder program. Since the program’s inception in 2004, 69 nonprofits have been selected as Neighborhood Builders in Massachusetts, with the Bank investing more than \$10 million into these nonprofits.

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Nichols College launches flexible Master’s in mental health counseling to address regional shortages and fast-track careers

DUDLEY — Nichols College has expanded its graduate programs, adding a new Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling (MHC) degree. The program will prepare students for careers as licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs) in a range of settings spanning hospitals, community agencies, school-based counseling offices and private practice. The first cohort of students will begin the program this fall.

The MHC program meets educational requirements for LMHC licensure in Massachusetts. Through a practice-first, experiential learning model, students will learn to address everyday challenges, from stress and anxiety to relationship and workplace issues, while building a strong pathway toward licensure. The program was developed to align with Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards, the primary accrediting body for master’s and doctoral counseling degrees in the United States.

“The Nichols program is designed to meet the growing need for compassionate and competent licensed mental health counselors within Massachusetts, throughout New England and beyond,” said Michelle Ledoux, Ed.D., LMHC, the inaugural director of the MHC program. “Our program stands out because we prepare students as generalist counselors-professionals equipped to work across a wide range of client needs and settings. This broad-based foundation reflects both workforce realities and client needs. It also ensures our students are positioned to pursue specialized certifications and advanced training as their careers evolve.”

The 60-credit program can be completed in three years and is delivered in a flexible, hybrid format. This structure includes synchronous online classes in both seven- and 15-week terms, as well as in-person experiential learning, internships and practicum. Courses that emphasize applied counseling skills, such as group counseling and crisis interventions, will be taught in person to support real-time interaction, skill practice and immediate feedback. Other courses, including those focused on foundational knowledge such as assessment and measurement, are well suited to an online environment.

This hybrid approach allows Nichols to maintain a high-touch, practice-oriented learning experience while providing the flexibility students need to balance graduate study with professional and personal commitments.

All MHC students will also complete a required practicum and internship that fulfills Massachusetts licensure standards for clinical training. This practical, hands-on experience aligns closely with the College’s undergraduate academic priorities, as 100% of Nichols undergraduates complete an internship and a research, experiential or consulting project.

“The new MHC program reflects our institution’s enduring commitment to offering relevant, in-demand academic programs that prepare students for meaningful and successful careers,” said Interim Provost Jean Beaupre, Ed.D. “Graduates of the Nichols MHC program will be equipped to make immediate contributions in a field facing critical shortages, and where versatile, well-trained counselors are needed most.”

Nichols undergraduates enrolled in the College’s accelerated master’s program may begin work toward the MHC degree in their senior year and complete the MHC program in two and a half additional years. This accelerated pathway saves on tuition and enables graduates to launch their careers sooner. Nichols also currently offers accelerated master’s programs in business administration (MBA), accounting (MSA), counterterrorism (MSC) and organizational leadership (MSOL).

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